



**Speaking Notes
Françoise Lyon
Chair of the NGC Board of Trustees**

**National Gallery of Canada
2018 Annual Public Meeting and Reception**

Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.
Seaspan Pavilion, The Polygon Gallery
North Vancouver, B.C.

Good evening ladies and gentlemen. I'm Françoise Lyon, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the National Gallery of Canada.

It is my pleasure to welcome you to our 12th Annual Public Meeting.

I would like to begin by introducing my colleagues on the Board of Trustees:

- Vice-Chair Anne-Marie Applin from Toronto;
- Lisa Browne from St. John's, Newfoundland;
- Terrence Burgoyne from Toronto;
- Roshi Chadha and Dominique Hamel from Montréal;
- Adad Hannah from Vancouver; and
- Linda Hutchison from Kentville, Nova Scotia.

I extend regrets on behalf of Trustees Paul Baay and Howie Kroon, both from Calgary, who were not able to join us this evening.

The purpose of our Annual Public Meeting is to engage the public and stakeholders and to report on the Gallery's activities.

We are so pleased to be here in Vancouver for this year's meeting. As a national museum, our mandate charges us to further the knowledge, understanding and enjoyment of the visual arts to audiences across Canada and abroad – and what better way to achieve this than to connect with you all this evening.

I would like to thank the Polygon Gallery and Director Reid Shier for welcoming us here. Similar to the National Gallery's Canadian Photography Institute, the Polygon works to advance the appreciation and understanding of photography in Canada – so it seemed fitting to host our meeting here, in this beautiful Seaspan Pavilion.

As our Director and CEO Marc Mayer will soon tell you, we've had an exceptionally busy year at the Gallery. We presented a number of successful exhibitions, both in Ottawa and in partnership

with other museums around the world. We were delighted to have the support of some very generous donors who contributed remarkable works to our national collection.

Among them was Vancouver's very own art collector and businessman Bob Rennie, who donated nearly 200 contemporary works of art in celebration of Canada's sesquicentennial. Marc will discuss this and other highlights with you in more detail.

But before I invite him to speak, I want to thank Marc for his hard work and dedication over the last 10 years.

As you may know, 2018 marks our final year under his leadership. While we still have a few months before his term ends, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish Marc the very best as he prepares to embark on a new chapter. Marc, from all of us gathered here, good luck and our very best wishes for your future endeavours.

I would also like to commend Marc's management team and all of the staff at the Gallery for their hard work, as well as the National Gallery of Canada Foundation, our patrons and our corporate sponsors for their generous support. I am also grateful to my predecessors, Michael J. Tims and interim Chair Harriet Walker, and our volunteers, members and visitors for their continued enthusiasm and support.

And, as always, my sincere thanks to the Canadian Government, the Department of Canadian Heritage, our former Minister, The Honourable Mélanie Joly, and our now Minister, The Honourable Pablo Rodriguez, for their continued support.

Thank you for your time.

Please join me in welcoming Director and CEO Marc Mayer.